GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:776
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2002
DARGAH KHWAJA SAHEB ACT, 1955
RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations for comprehensive amendments in `Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the measures being taken at present for the proper arrangements, management and utilization of offerings made at Dargah Sharief at Ajmer;

(d) the plan of the Government regarding maintenance and security of Dargah;

(e) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the problems faced by pilgrims coming to this Dargah;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government appointed a Committee in the Ministry to look into the amendments toDargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955. The Committee has submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Government.

(c) As per the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955 the administration, control andmanagement of Dargah is vested in the Dargah Committee. Boxes for offerings are keptin various places of Dargah premises. Income is also from donations money orders,postal orders, bank demand drafts and directly by cash deposit in office of Dargah Committee. The offerings received are utilized for purposes such as daily offering of flowers, management of annual Urs, Muharram Sharif, running of Darul Uloom forproviding Deeni taleem, running of Khwaja Model School, Daily langer for poor,stipend to widows and needy persons, Homeopathic dispensary, scholarships, arrangements of Shamiyanas, water for wazoo and drinking water in Dargah Sharif, etc.

(d) The security of Dargah is looked after by the security guards appointed by the Dargahcommittee. During the period of Urs and special occasions, the help of district administration is also taken.

(e), (f) and (g) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the problems. The main problems relate tolack of adequate facilities such as permanent vishram sthali for pilgrims, toilets and bathrooms on Dargah premises, stray cattle near Daragah premises, etc. The Rajasthan Government is taking step to improve the facilities available for pilgrims.